

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4573

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, PORG, XM, PA

SUBJECT: COMMENTARY ON SECRETARY'S HOUSTON ADDRESS

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC

REF: FBIS PY 142000

1. PARAGUAY'S LEADING FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMENTATOR HAS ISSUED A WARNING AGAINST THE DANGERS OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. IN HIS WEEKLY COLUMN, DEVOTED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S HOUSTON SPEECH, INFLUENTIAL ANTONIO SALUM FLECHA PRAISES THE WILLINGNESS OF THE U.S. TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE"IN A SPIRIT OF FRIENDLY CONCILIATION" AND ECHOS THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON SEEKING FROM CONFRONTATION WHAT CAN ONLY BE GAINED FROM COOPERATION. HE STRESSES "THE NEED FOR PARAGUAY TO ACT WITH WISDOM AND OBJECTIVITY, IN ORDER NOT TO FIND ITSELF DRAWN TO THE SUPPORT OF SOME COUNTRIES ENGAGED IN CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE UNITES STATES IN DEFENSE OF INTERESTS WHICH ARE NOT ITS (PARAGUAY'S) OWN.."

2. SALUM FLECHA ALSO NOTES A "CERTAIN SIMILARITY" BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GOP POSITIONS REGARDING CUBA IN THAT BOTH, IF SANCTIONS ARE LIFTED, "WILL STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGES IN REGULATING THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH
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CUBA AS BEST SUITS THEIR INTEREST."

3. DESCRIBING THE SPEECH AS ONE WITH IDEAS WHICH DESERVE OUR MOST CAREFUL ATTENTION, SALUM FLECHA EVALUATES IT AS AN INITIATIVE BY THE SECRETARY TO RESUME A GENUINE DIALOGUE BOTH WITHIN THE MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK AND BILATERALLY. "WE HOPE THAT HIS (KISSINGER'S) STATEMENTS WILL MEET WITH A FAVORABLE REACTION WHERE PASSIONS STILL PERSIST AND THAT BOTH AMERICAS, MORALLY AND SPIRITUALLY UNITED, WILL HARMONIZE THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS TO MEET THE GREAT CHALLENGE INVOLVED...."
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